(c) Subsidiary companies are taking various measures like re-organisation, suitable mechanisation, rationalisation of manpower deployment etc. Suspension of operation in a phased manner in certain heavily losing mines has also been envisaged in the revival plans for ECL, BCCL and CCL.

(d) No known mafia activities have directly contributed to the above state of affairs.

Mining activities in coal blocks

4180. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether major corporate houses are sitting idle on high quality coal blocks despite low ash content coal being allotted to them for captive mining;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting mining activity in their respective blocks; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have identified 121 blocks/sub-blocks and Singareni Collieries Company Limited has identified 7 blocks for allocation to public/private sector for captive mining as on date. Out of the above blocks 27 blocks have been allotted so far taking into account the quality and quantity of reserves for various specified end uses whereas mining has been started in 4 blocks. While allotting the blocks, the parties are advised to obtain lease of mining rights after complying with various statutory procedural measures and also to take steps related to installation of the end use plants. The progress of measures taken by the companies who have been allotted captive mining blocks, for obtaining a mining lease are followed up from time to time. After allocation of blocks the other procedural measures under the statute include recognition of a competent person to prepare mining plan, preparation of mining plan itself, obtaining approval of the Central Government thereon and recommendation of the concerned State Governments for the previous approval of the Central Government before a mining lease is granted by the State Government enabling a company to start mining operation. The cases of various parties allotted captive mining blocks are in various stages of the above procedures.